THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5925. *Thursday, Dec.* 17, 1840. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

LAST night, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Brother Ben,* and *Two in the Morning,* were repeated. We have heard an anecdote respecting the new Farce by Maddison Morton, which, if it be true, (and we have no reason to doubt it authenticity,) reflects as much credit on Mr. Harley, as it does contempt on Mr. Keeley. We are told that when the Farce of *Brother Ben* was read to the performers, the part of *Benjamin Bowles* was assigned to Mr. Harley, and that of *Snuffleton* to Mr. Keeley. The latter actor, puffed up with confidence in his *great abilities* as a comedian, thought the character of *Snuffleton* beneath him, and refused to perform it. No sooner was Mr. Harley acquainted with the little gentleman's determination, than he volunteered in the most handsome manner to take the rejected assumption, provided Mr. C. Mathews would act *Brother Ben.* Mr. Mathews consented, and the author of the piece has great reason to bless the day when the vanity of Keeley caused a change in the cast, which led to so great a success for his piece.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

YESTERDAY evening the amusements were again subservient to a Benefit, they consisted of *Money, Katherine and Petruchio,* and *Bob Short.* The performances were under the patronage of Queen Adelaide.

OLYMPIC.—This Theatre was opened last night by a company of amateurs, who form the lower branches of the society, named "Shaksperians." The house was crammed at an early hour by the *fortunates,* who were able to obtain tickets. The performances consisted of *Richelieu,* and *The Rivals Burlesqued,* and we were told by one of the spectators that the "getting up," of these pieces had occupied eight months! We have witnessed many wretched turn outs of would-be actors, but last night's essay beats them all. The gentleman who played *Richelieu,* had to address the house several times in the course of the evening. Three times did he make apology for imperfections, and once he requested the occupants in the upper boxes to be silent. The Cardinal observed that to invite people to a performance of amateurs, was like asking a man to dinner, and having the viands thrown at you. "Yes," observed one who possessed a place in the higher tier, "but if you ask a person to dine off plum pudding, he does not expect to receive hard dumplings." These and other interruptions rendered a very amusing evening. Those who were not well read in their parts, (they had *only* eight months to study,) rushed off the stage to examine the prompter's book, and then returned.

E. & J. Thomas, Printers, Exeter Street, Strand.

The *Chevalier de Mauprat* fell into the hands of a shocking stick, so did most of the other characters. The part of *Julie* was the only assumption well acted. The musicians (?) dosed their audience with the echo quadrilles, and so well were they satisfied with their first effort, that they imposed the same upon their hearers' nerves no less than three times in the course of the evening. "*The Rivals, very far from the text of Sheridan,*" was the concluding piece, and this was not played so much amiss. Two young ladies introduced songs with much applause. The entertainments were preceded with an address written for the occasion, badly spoken, but fairly written. The audience separated in great good humour with themselves, and highly amused with the *amateurs*.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll to Madame TUSSAUD's elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker Street, Portman Square.—Just added to her unrivalled collection the full length figure of that wonderful violinist Paganini; also splendid figures of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert in his military costume, the group of John Knox reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII. Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

On Tuesday, visit the DIORAMA, Regent's Park, to see the new and splendid view, *The Shrine of the Nativity at Bethlehem*, painted by M. Renoux, from a sketch made on the spot by David Roberts, Esq., A R.A. and the view of *The Coronation of Queen Victoria* in Westminster Abbey, by M. Bouton. This delightful Exhibition is open every day from ten till half-past four.

Indian Gala, or Pow-wow, in Catlin's North-American Indian Museum, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, (opposite the Burlington Arcade) On Thursday Evening at Eight o'clock. Twenty full and splended costumes displayed on living figures, completely equipped and armed, and all explained in a Lecture by Mr. Catlin. Several spirited and picturesque dances will also be given.—A very entertaining Exhibition.—Ad. 1s. The rooms are open day and evening.

Wednesday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see a most wonderful exhibition, *The Industrious Fleas*. They dance, ride, drive a four-in-hand, fight, and in fact do everything in first rate style, exciting the admiration of all present. By the bye, this is Signor Bertolotto's exhibition, that he has been exhibiting for the last eight years.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS's Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

"Why is one of Perring's Beavers like the Queen's first head dress?"—"Because it is *a Crown* that sits lightly on the head of the wearer—one that will last through tumult and tempest, and though it may *reign* for ever, can never be injured.—Try Perring's Hats not to be equalled for cheapness, lightness, and durability, at 21s. each.—85, Strand.

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

Mrs. P. asked me yesterday, "Why is E. C. Pitman's Boot and Shoe *depot*, in New Street, Covent Garden, like Madame's Green Room crowded with females?" "Because its full of *desirable soles!*"—Went there instantly, quite surprised at the excellent and cheap assortment of new Albert and French Patent Dress Boots—quite a curiosity—must be a customer.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's. &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, Shakspere's

MIDSUMMER Night's Dream.

Theseus, Duke of Athens, Mr COOPER,
Egeus....(Father to Hermia) .... Mr DIDDEAR,
Lysander, (in love with) Mr J. VINING,
Demetrius, (Hermia,) Mr BRINDAL,
Philostrate (Master of the Revels) Mr HEMMING,
Quince (the Carpenter) Mr BARTLEY,
Bottom ..... (the Weaver) ..... Mr HARLEY,
Flute (the Bellows Mender,) Mr KEELEY,
Snout (the Tinker) Mr MEADOWS,
Snug.....(the Joiner).....Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Starveling (the Tailor) Mr W. H. PAYNE,
Hippolyta,(Queen of the Amazons) Mrs BROUGHAM
Hermia (in love with Lysander) Mrs NISBETT,
Helena (in love with Demetrius) Miss COOPER.

FAIRIES.

Oberon (King of the Fairies) Madame VESTRIS,
Titania (Queen of the Fairies) Mrs W. LACY,
Puck, or Robin Goodfellow (a Fairy) Miss MARSHALL,
First Fairy, Miss RAINFORTH,
Second Fairy, ... Miss GRANT,
3rd Fairy, Miss LEE, 4th Fairy, Miss A. TAYLOR,
Sylphs, Mr GILBERT and Miss BALLIN,

Characters in the Interlude performed by the CLOWNS:

After which, (6th Time) a New Farce, called

Brother Ben.

Commodore Cutlas, Mr BARTLEY,
Benjamin Bowles ..... Mr C. MATHEWS,
Mr Snuffleton, Mr HARLEY,
Mrs Cutlas, ... Mrs BROUGHAM,
Mrs Benjamin Bowles, Miss LEE,
Dorothy ..... Mrs C. JONES.

conclude with, **A COMIC SCENE**
Between Mr C. MATHEWS and Mr KEELEY,
ENTITLED

Two in the Morning.

To-morrow, The Merry Wives of Windsor, and The Critic.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, a Musical Entertainment, entitled The

Concerts d'Hiver.

Conductor, Mons. MUSARD,

(Last Week of his Present Engagement.)

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Overture .. Le Lac des Fees .. Auber

Valses .. Die Kosenden .... Lanner

Overture .... Le Serment .. Auber

Quadrille .. I Puritani .. Musard

Overture .. Der Freyschutz .. C.M.VonWeber

Air Varie, Violoncello, Mons. PILET.

GRAND SCENE SATANIQUE, selected from 'Robert le Diable,' .... Meyerbeer

I.— Evocation of Satan. II.—The Dead rise from their Tombs, covered with their Shrouds. III.—Valse of the Infernals.

Arranged by MUSARD.

PART II.

Overture .... Guillaume Tell .... Rossini

Rendezvous de Chasse, NewQuadrille, .. Musard Solo, Cornet a Pistons, Herr KOENIG, Solo, Trumpet. Herr MULLER. Solo, Trombone, Mons. DANTONET. Solo, Ophicleide, Mons. PROSPERE.

Concerto Ophicleide, Monsieur PROSPERE.

Cent-Suisse, Quadrille, M.S. .. .. Musard Solo, Cornet a Piston, Herr KOENIG, Solo, Trombone, Mons. DANTONET.

Overture, ... Fra Diavolo .... Auber

Postillon de Mam'ablou, New Quadrille, Musard

Galop .. Camille .. Trumpet Solo, Herr MULLER. .... .. Musard

PRICES OF ADMISSION.

To the Promenade 1s. Dress Circle 2s.6d. Upper Boxes, 1s.6d. Gallery 1s.

Doors Open at Half-past Seven o'Clock, to commence at Eight precisely.

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